

Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /071 W

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R 121731Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0648

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, PGOV, UY, VT

SUBJ: FURTHER ON NUNCIATURA SECRETARY'S SITUATION

REF: MONTEVIDEO 313

1. WHILE MONS. ST. HILAIRE, SECRETARY OF THE PAPAL NUCIATURA, HAS NOT BEEN DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA, AND IS STILL IN URUGUAY, HE WILL BE DEPARTING SOON, ACCORDING TO THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR. THIS SOURCE STATES THAT THE NEW PAPAL NUNCIO, MONS. BELLOTTI, TOLD HIM THAT ST. HILAIRE HAD ASKED HIS PERMISSION TO SPEAK TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE SIMPLY TO RELAY A REQUEST RECEIVED FROM COMMUNIST LEADER MASSERA'S WIFE TO BE PERMITTED TO SEND FOOD TO HIM AT HIS PLACE OF INCARCERATION. HAVING BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO DO SO BY THE NUNCIO, HE THEREUPON WENT TO THE EXTREME OF ASKING FOR MASSERA'S RELEASE, WHICH ACT OUTRAGED THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT. THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR STATES THAT THE NUNCIO FEELS HIS SECRETARY DELIBERATELY DECEIVED HIM AND HE IS MOST DISTRESSED. HE SAYS UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF VATICAN INSTRUCTION.

HE ALSO, SOMEWHAT IN CONTRAST TO OUR PREVIOUS IMPRESSIONS OF ST. HILAIRE, USED VERY EXTREME SPANISH WORDS TO DESCRIBE HIM AS A VERY UNTRUSTWORTHY PERSON AND EXTREMIST IN HIS POLITICAL VIEWS. ACTING ON THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR'S ADVICE, ACCORDING TO HIM, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NUNCIO CONSULTED FONMINISTER BLANCO WHO COMFIRMED THE GOU'S

DISPLEASURE BUT ITS WILLINGNESS TO WITHHOLD ANY DRASTIC ACTION
PROVIDING ST. HILAIRE IS REMOVED IN THE REASONABLE NEAR FUTURE.
THIS ATTITUDE OF THE GOU STEMS PRINCIPALLY OF ITS DESIRE NOT TO HAVE
ANY
PROBLEMS WITH THE CHURCH OR WITH THE NEW PAPAL NUNCIO, AND ITS
RECOGNITION OF ST. HILAIRE'S DECEPTION.

2. THERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT THE AUTHENTICITY AND
ACCURACY OF WHAT THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD US IN THIS
CASE. SIRACUSA

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